

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An air dryer, comprising a base member, ~~and a main cartridge attached thereto~~ and an intermediate cartridge,
wherein said base member comprises a first connector for removably connecting said base member to said main cartridge,
wherein said main cartridge comprises a second connector for removably connecting said main cartridge to said base member through cooperation between the first connector and the second connector, and said main cartridge~~and~~
~~containing~~contains means for drying and possibly filtering and/or cleaning air passing there through, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein ~~an~~said intermediate cartridge comprises a third connector for removably connecting said intermediate cartridge to said base member, the third connector being substantially identical to the second connector of said main cartridge,
wherein said intermediate cartridge further comprises a fourth connector for removably connecting said intermediate cartridge to said main cartridge, the fourth connector being substantially identical to the first connector of said base member,
and wherein said intermediate cartridge ~~containing~~contains means for drying and possibly filtering and/or cleaning air passing there through and, is arranged between the base member and the main cartridge.
2. (Previously Presented) An air dryer according to claim 1, wherein the means for drying and possibly filtering and/or cleaning air in the intermediate cartridge are arranged to complement and/or supplement the means for drying and possibly filtering and/or cleaning air in the main cartridge.

3. (Previously Presented) An air dryer according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate cartridge is arranged to be fastened by corresponding means as the main cartridge to the base member.

4. (Previously Presented) An air dryer according to claim 3, wherein the intermediate cartridge is provided with a central internal thread in its bottom portion for cooperation with a corresponding external thread in the base member and a central external thread in its upper portion for cooperation with a corresponding internal thread in the main cartridge.

5. (Previously Presented) An air dryer according to claim 2, wherein the main cartridge contains silica gel with fine pores or molecular sieve and the intermediate cartridge contains a pre-filter and silica gel with large pores for the air flow before the main cartridge and molecular sieve and a fine filter for the air flow after the main cartridge.

6. (Previously Presented) An air dryer according to claim 5, wherein the silica gel with large pores is arranged in an annular outer compartment of the intermediate cartridge and the molecular sieve in a cylindrical central compartment thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) An intermediate cartridge adapted for use in an air dryer according to claim 1 having a base member having a first connector and a main cartridge connectible thereto and having a second connector and containing means for drying and possibly filtering and/or cleaning air passing there through,
said intermediate cartridge comprising a third connector for removably connecting said intermediate cartridge to the base member, the third connector being substantially identical to the second connector of the main cartridge,

_____ said intermediate cartridge further comprising a fourth connector for removably connecting said intermediate cartridge to the main cartridge, the fourth connector being substantially identical to the first connector of the base member.

_____ wherein said intermediate cartridge contains means for drying and possibly filtering and/or cleaning air passing there through.

8. (New) An intermediate cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the third connector comprises threading.

9. (New) An intermediate cartridge according to claim 8, wherein the threading is central internal threading.

10. (New) An intermediate cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the fourth connector comprises threading.

11. (New) An intermediate cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the threading is central external threading.

12. (New) An intermediate cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the means for drying and possibly filtering and/or cleaning air in said intermediate cartridge are arranged to complement and/or supplement the means for drying and possibly filtering and/or cleaning air in the main cartridge.

13. (New) An intermediate cartridge according to claim 7, wherein said intermediate cartridge is arranged to be fastened by corresponding means as the main cartridge to the base member.

14. (New) An intermediate cartridge according to claim 7, wherein said intermediate cartridge is provided with a central internal thread in its bottom portion for cooperation

with a corresponding external thread in the base member and a central external thread in its upper portion for cooperation with a corresponding internal thread in the main cartridge.

15. (New) An intermediate cartridge according to claim 7, wherein said intermediate cartridge contains a pre-filter and silica gel with large pores for air flow before the main cartridge and molecular sieve and a fine filter for air flow after the main cartridge.

16. (New) An intermediate cartridge according to claim 15, wherein the silica gel with large pores is arranged in an annular outer compartment of said intermediate cartridge and the molecular sieve in a cylindrical central compartment thereof.